

COUNTRY DATA: Cuba : Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

The native Amerindian population of Cuba began to decline after the European discovery of the island by Christopher COLUMBUS in 1492 and following its development as a Spanish colony during the next several centuries. Large numbers of African slaves were imported to work the coffee and sugar plantations, and Havana became the launching point for the annual treasure fleets bound for Spain from Mexico and Peru. Spanish rule eventually provoked an independence movement and occasional rebellions that were harshly suppressed. US intervention during the Spanish-American War in 1898 assisted the Cubans in overthrowing Spanish rule. The Treaty of Paris established Cuban independence from the US in 1902 after which the island experienced a string of governments mostly dominated by the military and corrupt politicians. Fidel CASTRO led a rebel army to victory in 1959; his iron rule held the subsequent regime together for nearly five decades. He stepped down as president in February 2008 in favor of his younger brother Raul CASTRO. Cuba's Communist revolution, with Soviet support, was exported throughout Latin America and Africa during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. The country faced a severe economic downturn in 1990 following the withdrawal of former Soviet subsidies worth \$4 billion to \$6 billion annually. Cuba at times portrays the US embargo, in place since 1961, as the source of its difficulties. Illicit migration to the US - using homemade rafts, alien smugglers, air flights, or via the southwest border - is a continuing problem. The US Coast Guard intercepted 982 individuals attempting to cross the Straits of Florida in fiscal year 200

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Caribbean, island between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, 150 km south of Key West, Florida
Area	total: 110,860 sq km country comparison to the world: 105 land: 109,820 sq km water: 1,040 sq km
Climate	<u>Current Weather</u> tropical; moderated by trade winds; dry season (November to April); rainy season (May to October)
Natural Resources	cobalt, nickel, iron ore, chromium, copper, salt, timber, silica, petroleum, arable land
Total Renewable Water Resources	38.1 cu km (2000)

Freshwater Withdrawal	total: 8.2 cu km/yr (19%/12%/69%) per capita: 728 cu m/yr (2000)
Natural Hazards	the east coast is subject to hurricanes from August to November (in general, the country averages about one hurricane every other year); droughts are common
Environmental Issues	air and water pollution; biodiversity loss; deforestation
PEOPLE	
Population	11,477,459 (July 2010 est.) country comparison to the world: <u>73</u>
Ethnic Groups	white 65.1%, mulatto and mestizo 24.8%, black 10.1% (2002 census)
Religions	nominally 85% Roman Catholic prior to CASTRO assuming power; Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, and Santeria are also represented
Languages	Spanish (official)
Literacy Rate	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 99.8% male: 99.8% female: 99.8% (2002 census)
Major Infectious Diseases	degree of risk: intermediate food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A vectorborne diseases: dengue fever (2009)
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Communist state
Independence	20 May 1902 (from Spain 10 December 1898; administered by the US from 1898 to 1902); not acknowledged by the Cuban Government as a day of independence
Constitution	24 February 1976; amended July 1992 and June 2002
Legal System	based on Spanish civil law and influenced by American legal concepts with large elements of Communist legal theory; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	sugar, tobacco, citrus, coffee, rice, potatoes, beans; livestock
Industries	sugar, petroleum, tobacco, construction, nickel, steel, cement, agricultural machinery, pharmaceuticals

Import commodities	petroleum, food, machinery and equipment, chemicals
Import Partners	Venezuela 30.51%, China 15.48%, Spain 8.3%, US 6.87% (2009)
Export Commodities	sugar, nickel, tobacco, fish, medical products, citrus, coffee
Export Partners	China 25.68%, Canada 20.31%, Spain 6.79%, Netherlands 4.53% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	<p>\$9,900 (2010 est.)</p> <p>country comparison to the world: 109</p> <p>\$9,800 (2009 est.)</p> <p>\$9,700 (2008 est.)</p> <p><i>note:</i> data are in 2010 US dollars</p>
Population below poverty line	NA%

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: CUBA

General

Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	79 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	10.2 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	--

Gender Inequality

Female Seats in Parliament (%)	43.2%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	73.9%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	80.4%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	48.6%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	77.0%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	100%

Poverty

Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	--
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Empowerment

Number of Journalists Imprisoned	22
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	--
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	40%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	87%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	13%
Population without Access to Water (%)	6%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	9%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	0.97%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	--
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	--
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	--
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	75.2%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.1%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	0.1%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	0.1%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$11.30
Population without Electricity (%)	2.7%

